

By: Representatives Murdock, M. Hodges, Richardson, Walker

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO COMMEND ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC. FOR OVER
100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

Subtitle

TO COMMEND ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY,
INC. FOR OVER 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY
SERVICE.

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity is the first and oldest intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was founded on December 4, 1906, on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, by 7 students who recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was founded by visionaries, known as the "Jewels" of the fraternity, including Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially; and

WHEREAS, the Jewel founders and early leaders of the fraternity



succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity; and

WHEREAS, chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity have served communities and campuses throughout Arkansas since 1926; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity continues to proliferate, spanning the globe with close to 800 chapters and 200,000 members located throughout the United States, Canada, various Caribbean islands, Africa, West Indies, Europe, and Asia; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity continues to stress academic excellence among its members and recognizes the educational, economic, political, and social challenges faced by African-Americans nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity participates in Project Alpha, Go-To-High-School, Go-To-College, Boy Scouts of America, and A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People programs in response to those challenges; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity nationally includes the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., W.E.B. DuBois, Paul Robeson, Dick Gregory, Thurgood Marshall, Adam Clayton Powell Jr., T. E. Patterson, Duke Ellington, Jesse Owens, and Marc Morial; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the statewide network of Arkansas Alphas include among its membership the President of AT&T Arkansas, Ronnie Dedman; the President of Philander Smith College, Roderick L. Smothers Sr., PhD; the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Laurence B. Alexander, PhD; the Superintendent of the Fayetteville School District, John L. Colbert, EdD; the Superintendent of the Pine Bluff School District, Jeremy Owoh, PhD; the Mayor of Forrest City, Cedric Williams; the Mayor of Little Rock, Frank D. Scott Jr.; Representative Reginald Murdock; Representative Jay Richardson; Representative John W. Walker; Representative Monte Hodges; former Representative Tracy Steele; former Senator Jack Crumbly; former Representative Earnest Brown; former

Representative Tommy Baker; former Senator Bill Lewellen; former Representative Jimmie Wilson; former Representative Booker T. Clemmons; former Representative John Lewellen; former Representative William H. Townsend; and former Senator Jerry Jewell; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, under the leadership of its 35th General President, Everett B. Ward, PhD, is focused on the “Urgency of Now”, which addresses the fraternity’s past, current, and future role in shaping policy that impacts its communities,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives acknowledge the members of Alpha Phi Alpha and the fraternity for providing over 100 years of outstanding service and leadership to their communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that upon adoption, a copy of this resolution shall be provided to Tarryance Robinson, Southwestern Region Vice President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Jeremy Owoh, PhD, Arkansas District Director, by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.